

**From:** Vemuri, K. Rao  
**To:** 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I worked in computing for almost 20 years, and I am amazed at what may be allowed to happen in the context of the Microsoft settlement.

Rapid growth in computing has made this technology so ubiquitous that computing standards should now be considered an infrastructure, and not just property of the industry participants - just as the network of roads are not the property of any automotive company. No corporation should be allowed to control such a vital infrastructure, if innovations in computing are going to be the best they could be, to the benefit everyone. This antitrust case is more important than any such case in the past, including the IBM case 20 years back, since computing is now ubiquitous.

Given that computing permeates every aspect of life in the modern society, it has become the most critically important technology. Allowing Microsoft (or any other corporation) to hide the de-facto standard file formats and protocols in such a vital industry is tantamount to allowing the creation of a monopoly of unprecedented power. This will stunt the growth of computing technology, so that it can never deliver all it could. Also, no corporation should be allowed to unilaterally extend the otherwise standard formats, thereby simultaneously making those formats less useful and hinder technical progress.

I believe the current settlement will allow Microsoft to dominate computing to such an extent that true innovations in computing will be held back. The society will benefit a lot less from computing than it would otherwise, even while filling up the Microsoft coffers to an even greater degree.

Thank you,

K. Rao Vemuri  
4313 Woodbine Ct.  
Murrysville, PA - 15668